

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for generating an ultrashort pulse, comprising the steps of:  
converting a laser pulse once into a laser pulse having another wavelength;  
reconverting the laser pulse having another wavelength into a laser pulse having  
an initial wavelength to improve the contrast at a front part of the pulse; and  
amplifying the pulse by a laser to generate an ultrashort pulse.
2. (Original) The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 1,  
wherein  
the laser is an excimer laser.
3. (Original) The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 2,  
wherein  
the laser pulse is converted into a pulse having another wavelength by performing  
stimulated Raman scattering; and  
the reversion of the pulse to a pulse having the initial wavelength is performed  
by performing four-wave mixing.
4. (Original) The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 1,  
wherein  
the amplification of the pulse is saturation amplification.

5. (Original) An ultrashort pulse generating apparatus, wherein  
a laser pulse is once converted into a laser pulse having another wavelength;  
the laser pulse having another wavelength is reconverted into a laser pulse having  
an initial wavelength to improve the contrast at a front part of the pulse; and  
the pulse is amplified by a laser to generate an ultrashort pulse.
6. (Original) The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
the laser is an excimer laser.
7. (Currently Amended) The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to  
claim ~~[[5]]~~ 6, wherein  
the laser pulse is converted into a pulse having another wavelength by performing  
stimulated Raman scattering; and  
the reversion of the pulse to a pulse having the initial wavelength is performed  
by performing four-wave mixing.
8. (Original) The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
the amplification of the pulse is saturation amplification.